

Appl. No.: 09/708,898
Reply to Office Action of 6-23-2005

REMARKS

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 13-17, 19, 21-24 and 58-64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Catanzaro et al. (U.S. 6,438,111). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Catanzaro et al. teach a system for dynamically cascading together a number of multipoint servers in order to increase system capacity. The system includes a router and a number of multipoint servers, wherein the router routes a call to a particular server, and, if necessary, causes additional servers to be added to increase the capacity for that conference. *See*, abstract.

Applicant submits that Catanzaro et al. do not anticipate claims 13-17, 19, 21-24 and 58-64 because Catanzaro et al. do not disclose all the limitations in amended independent claims 13 and 24. More specifically, amended claims 13 and 24 recite a virtual multipoint control unit that is capable of scheduling and hosting a video conference. Catanzaro does not appear to teach or suggest a virtual multipoint control unit that is capable of scheduling and coordinating a video conference on a plurality of multipoint control units as disclosed and claimed herein (page 3, lines 14-16).

The Examiner contends that the router disclosed in Catanzaro (Fig. 2; col. 3, ll. 24-25) is a virtual multipoint control unit. Applicant submits that Catanzaro appears only to teach a router that routes a call to a particular server, and, if necessary, causes additional servers to be added to increase the capacity for that conference (*see* Abstract). The router maintains a table of server information such as a list of servers and their respective addresses, their respective total and available capacities, as well as information that identifies the conferences currently supported by the servers (col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, line 17). Catanzaro, however, does not appear to teach or suggest that the router disclosed therein possesses any capacity to schedule a video conference. The router of Catanzaro only serves as a central distribution point (col. 3,

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line 24) after a conference has been set up and is in progress on a multipoint server (col. 3, ll. 57-59) and does not appear to perform the functions of conference reservation and scheduling as claimed herein. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 13-17, 19, 21-24 and 58-64 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-12 and 49-57 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kumar et al. (U.S. 6,006,253) in view of Catanzaro et al. (U.S. 6,438,111). Claims 1-12 and 49-57 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Catanzaro et al. (U.S. 6,438,111) in view of Kumar et al. (U.S. 6,006,253). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Catanzaro et al. has been discussed above. Kumar et al. teach a method and apparatus of providing a back-channel for a receiver terminal in a loosely-coupled conference that includes at least one receiver terminal and a H.323 panel having a multipoint controller and one or more H.323 terminals. See, abstract.

Applicant respectfully traverses the contention that the combination of Kumar and Catanzaro renders claims 1-12 and 49-57 obvious in so far as Kumar and Catanzaro, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest all the limitations in amended independent claims 1 and 9. Specifically, amended claims 1 and 9 recite communicatively interconnecting a plurality of multipoint control units to a central controller, wherein the central controller is capable of scheduling and hosting a video conference. The Examiner acknowledges that Kumar does not teach interconnecting a plurality of multipoint control units to a central controller. As discussed above, Catanzaro does not teach or suggest a central controller that is capable of scheduling and hosting a video conference. Hence, Kumar and Catanzaro together does not teach or suggest the limitation of:

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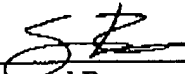
communicatively interconnecting a plurality of multipoint control units to a central controller, wherein the central controller is capable of scheduling and hosting a video conference.

Obviousness rejection is only appropriate should the combined references together disclose all of the limitations of the claims. *See* MPEP § 2143.03. In view of the above remarks, even if it were appropriate to combine Kumar and Catanzaro, which Applicant does not concede, the combination of these references does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of Applicant's independent claims 1 and 9. Hence, the combination of Kumar and Catanzaro does not render independent claims 1 and 9 obvious. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-12 and 49-57 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Oct. 12, 2005

Wong, Cabello, Lutsch, Rutherford
& Brucculeri, LLP
20333 SH 249
Houston, Texas 77070
(832) 446-2453
Fax: 832 446-2424



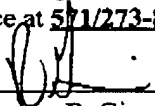
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